LIBRARY

WELCOME
9 OCT 1956
A.

CAERLEON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1955.

- by -

EVELYN D. OWEN.

M.B. B.S. D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

- including -

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

---o---O---o---

CAERLEON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT.

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

For the Year Ended 31st December, 1955. Caerleon.

To the Chairman and Members of the Caerleon Urban District Council.

I beg to submit my Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health for the District. It is drawn up accordingly to the directions of the Ministry of Health and includes the report of the Sanitary Inspector.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area (in acres).	3183
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population mid 1955.	3980
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1955) according to Rate Book.	959
Rateable Value.	£19,992.
Sum represented by 1d. Rate.	£75.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The Newport Extension Act came into force on the 1st April, 1955. By its provisions Caerleon lost to the County Borough of Newport 73 acres of land.

On this land the Newport Council had erected 187 prefabricated bungalows and private developers 25 traditional houses making a total of 212 dwellings in all.

Therefore the estimated population of Caerleon dropped from 4830 in 1954 to 3980 in 1955 and the other figures given above accordingly.

VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Live Births.			
Total.	21	17	38
Legitimate.	20	17	37
Illegitimate.	1	0	1
Stillbirths.			
Total.	0	1	1
Legitimate.	0	1	1
Illegitimate.	0	0	0

Live Birth Rate for the year, per 1,000 population.....	9.68
Live Birth Rate for England and Wales for 1955 per 1,000 population.....	15.0
Live Birth Rate for Monmouthshire for 1955 per 1,000 population.....	15.29
Stillbirth Rate for year, per 1,000 population.....	0.25
Stillbirth Rate for Monmouthshire for 1955 per 1,000 population.....	0.51
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths.....	25.6
For Monmouthshire.....	32.09
For England and Wales.....	23.1

The number of deaths in the area during 1955 was as follows:-

	Male.	Female.	Total.
	36	30	66

Death Rate per 1,000 population.....	16.58
Death Rate for England and Wales, 1955....	11.7
Death Rate for Monmouthshire, 1955.....	12.40

	Male.	Female.
Tuberculosis. Respiratory.....	2	0
Tuberculosis. Other.....	0	0
Cancer.....	7	3
Leukaemia.....	1	0
Diabetes.....	0	0
Vascular lesions of nervous system.....	4	2
Coronary disease, angina.....	3	2
Hypertension with heart disease.....	2	0
Other heart diseases.....	9	15
Other circulatory diseases.....	1	4
Influenza.....	0	0
Pneumonia.....	2	1
Bronchitis.....	1	0
Other disease of respiratory system.....	0	0
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.....	0	0
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.....	0	0
Nephritis and nephrosis.....	0	0
Accidents.....	1	1
Pregnancy childbirth and abortion.....	0	0
Congenital malformation.....	0	0
Other diseases.....	3	2
Suicide and homicide.....	0	0
	36	30

In the figures given in the foregoing tables the comparability factors for the district as supplied by the Registrar General (1.01 for births and 0.91 for deaths) have been used.

These factors take into account the way the population of the area is constituted by age, sex, etc, and are used to adjust the crude rates given by the actual numbers of births and deaths to obtain corrected rates which can then be compared with those of other areas and of the country as a whole.

Out of the total 66 deaths 32 occurred in the Mental Hospital of patients whose residence before entering the hospital was not in Caerleon.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

There was no maternal death associated with pregnancy and childbirth.

Maternal mortality per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births.
for England and Wales..... 0.64
for Monmouthshire..... 0.98

INFANT MORTALITY.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of Age..Nil.

Death Rate per 1,000 Live Births.
For Monmouthshire.....33.96
For England and Wales.....24.9

NEONATAL MORTALITY.

Death Rate per 1,000 associated live births of infants under 4 weeks of age
In Monmouthshire..... 22.38
In England and Wales..... 17.3

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE HEALTH SERVICE IN THE AREA.

Public Health Officers of the Authority;
The staff consisted of:-

(a) Medical Officer of Health: who is also Medical Officer of Health for the Cwmbran U.D.C. and Area Medical Officer for the No. 8 Health Area of Monmouthshire County Council.

(b) Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector. J.H.M. Jolliffe, A.M.I.S.E., A.M.I.B.E., C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A., A.R.S.I.

Committees concerned with Public Health matters are.

Public Health Committee. General control and advisory function.
Works Committee. Sewerage, Sewage Disposal, Refuse Collection and Disposal and all construction items.
Recreation Committee. Open Spaces and Cemetery.
Council. Housing.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Public Cleansing. The refuse, both domestic and trade, is collected weekly and disposed by tipping. Three men and one refuse freighter are normally employed, but the increase in bulk and weight of refuse caused an additional lorry and two men to be employed one half day each week. By this means it has been possible to confine the collection to three days, thus releasing the labour for other works. Disposal sites continue to cause some problem. The Usk Road Tip had been completely filled and the additional haul of the whole of the refuse to the Christchurch Tip was proving uneconomical. At the close of the year the Christchurch Tip - which had been opened during the year - was the only tipping site being used, but negotiations were in an advanced stage for the acquisition of a small dis-used quarry on the Ponthir Road for this purpose. The tip was sprayed with dressing to reduce fly nuisance, and when necessary, rodent control was carried out.

Smoke Nuisance. No item under this heading arose during the year.

Schools. The water supply and sanitary circumstances of the schools continue to remain satisfactory.

Rivers and Streams. The prevention of pollution of rivers and streams is now within the jurisdiction of the Usk River Board.

Water Supplies. The statutory water authority within the whole urban area is the County Borough of Newport. No samples were taken by this Council in view of satisfactory arrangements existing between the two authorities. No action was necessary as to quality or quantity, and the water is not plumbo-solvent. During the year the Engineer / Surveyor prepared a scheme for the extension of water supplies to theoutlying areas at Pillmawr and along the Catsash Road. In the former, it was estimated that it would cost £2,077. to lay piped supplies to the houses at Pillmawr which meant a capital cost of £349. per property. The Catsash Supply would be approximately £2,300 or £387. per property. In view of the restrictions on capital expenditure, further consideration of the scheme had to be postponed.

Cemetery. The number of interments remained small, but the need has proved itself. The Cemetery is well kept.

Swimming Baths and Pools. The long dry summer resulted in very extensive use being made of the open air swimming pool at Bullmoor Lido. Samples of the water from the bath were submitted for bacteriological examination and towards the end of the season showed some small degree of pollution. The Company were undertaking further additions to the water treatment plant during the close season to provide for the additional use of the pool.

Rodent Control. A part-time operator deals with the rodent infestation, making routine inspections in addition to attending to complaints. The degree of infestation is not high and is confined to the river banks, refuse tips and other normal rat habitations.

Recreation Facilities. The Council provide a very wide range of recreational facilities. The main playing fields at Cold Bath Road provide children's playgrounds, football, cricket, tennis and bowls. The Bowling Green proved most popular but net ball and putting were discontinued due to lack of support. Small children's playing fields are provided at Penthir and Ultra Pentem to serve the outlying areas. In addition to those main facilities there is the Common - a small open space in the Town centre - and the Town Hall Gardens which provide a most picturesque spot where older people may rest. A further small flower garden has been laid out on land adjoining the Legionary Museum. The acquisition of the old racecourse has added a further one hundred acres of open space to those enumerated above. A scheme was approved for laying out a further five acres of the land on the Racecourse adjoining the existing football field so as to provide another football pitch and full sized cricket ground. The area is scheduled as an 'ancient monument' and the delay resulting from the statutory archaeological exploration of the site prevented the contractors from commencing the works of levelling and seeding.

Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal. The private sewage plant serving Christchurch Estates was adopted as a public sewage disposal works and is now available to drain other properties which might be erected on the fringe of the estate. A firm of consulting engineers is preparing a scheme for linking up the hospital scheme with the private housing development site at Lodge Hill and the works would ultimately be arranged to accommodate the unsewered section of Pillmawr Road and if necessary the whole of the sewerage of the Caerleon Area could be disposed on the site. During the year a considerable step forward was made in the Coldra Area where the insanitary and overloaded plants at Llanwern Road and Coldra were removed and the drainage connected to the Hartridge Farm plant situated within the Newport Borough Boundary and operated by that authority. This scheme has removed a long standing source of nuisance. The hospital plant was taken over for maintenance purposes and desludged twice during the year. The Council also provide a cesspool cleansing service and premises are serviced twice yearly free of charge; other times on payment. The scheme has proved most useful ever since its inception.

Mortuary. Although only occasionally used, the mortuary provides a most essential service. A very distressing fatal accident underlined the importance of continuing a mortuary within the urban area. The present one is becoming ruinous and unsafe and the Engineer and Surveyor drew up a scheme for replacing it by a new structure on a more satisfactory site; the present site being required for housing development. It would appear that some doubt is being expressed in certain quarters as to the necessity for a separate provision being made for the area, but it is hoped that the proposal to erect a new mortuary will receive official approval.

Factories. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector) under the Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948.

	Numbers on Register.	Inspections.	Written Notices.
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	15	16	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	1	1	-
Total.	16	17	-

No defects were found.

There were no outworkers in the district.

Housing. The refusal of the River Board to permit further drainage to the Ponthir Road sewer outfall resulted in the scheme to erect a further twenty-eight houses on the Lodge Site having to be re-cast. Consequently no progress was made during the year. However, one pair of three bedroom houses and two blocks, each comprising two-two bedroomed and one single bedroomed bungalows, were completed during the year. Thus the Council provided a further eight housing units. The scheme was carried out in Cornish Unit Mark IV construction. The six bungalows were occupied by aged persons. No progress was made on the private development scheme on account of sewerage and sewage disposal difficulties.

Private development was small, but fifteen houses were completed and four were under construction by the end of the year. The Council assist persons by advancing money for acquisition of existing properties or the erection of new houses. One application for an Improvement Grant was dealt with and approved, the works being completed during the year under review. A further application was approved which involved the acquisition and renovation of a house which had been scheduled for demolition, and in addition to the improvement grant being made an advance by way of loan was also given to permit the re-construction of the house. This action was most commendable, and, in addition to saving a house from demolition, made provision for a family on the housing list. Further schemes such as this are to be encouraged.

The survey under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 was completed during the year. It indicated that 44 houses were unfit for habitation and should be demolished. It is hoped to be able to secure the demolition of all the houses within ten years. For the first five year programme the Council commenced a scheme for declaring an area comprising six unfit houses to be a Clearance Area. Demolition of these houses and the acquisition of an adjoining house with its subsequent clearance could provide room for the erection of thirteen housing units. An additional site is available when the mortuary buildings are demolished, and a further four housing units can be erected thereon. Thus seven houses can be demolished and the persons displaced rehoused together with ten other families if this redevelopment scheme is carried out. A further houses was made fit by the owners who submitted an undertaking in lieu of a demolition order.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

(1) Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.

1.	(a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).	212.
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose.	212.
2.	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	44.
3.	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under 2) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	102.

(2) Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notice.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority, or its officers.	11.

(3) Action under Statutory Powers.

1. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs. -

(b) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice. -

2. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied. 3.

(b) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice. 3.

3. Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Acts, 1936.

(a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made. 12.

(b) Number of dwelling houses which were demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders. -

(c) Number of houses in respect of which undertakings were given. 1.

Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Acts, 1936.

(a) Numbers of separate tenements or under ground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made. Nil.

(b) Number of separate tenements or under ground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenememt or room having been rendered fit. Nil.

	Temporary.	Perm. Non-Trad.	Traditional Houses.
Number of houses owned by Local Authority on the 31.12.55.	50	62	96
Number of Local Authority houses in course of erection on the 31.12.55.	-	-	-
Total number of houses erected during the year.			
By Local Authority.	-	8	-
By Private Enterprise.	-	-	15

Number of houses under construction by Private Enterprise but not completed on 31.12.55..... 4

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Food Premises. The number and type of food premises are:-

Grocers and Provision Merchants.....	11
Confectioners.....	2
Butchers.....	2
Bakehouses.....	1
Catering Establishments.....	3
Greengrocers and Fishmongers.....	2
Fish and Chip Shops.....	1
Chemists.....	2
	24

Of the foregoing, the following are registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Sale of Ice-cream..... 6
Manufacture of sausage.... 2

The food premises are satisfactory, no serious defect being noted. A total of thirty three inspections of food premises were made. Fifteen persons are registered for the sale of milk.

There is no slaughtering establishment in the district. Five pigs were inspected during the year following emergency slaughter, but all the carcases were found to be healthy.

Very small quantities of unsound food are condemed during the year. The Council collect the food surrendered and dispose of it by burial in the tip.

TUBERCULOSIS.
New Cases and Mortality during 1955.

Age Period.	New Cases. Resp.		Non.Resp.		Deaths.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 1 years.	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5 "	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 -10 "	1	-	-	-	-	-
10-15 "	1	-	-	-	-	-
15-20 "	1	-	-	-	-	-
20-25 "	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-35 "	-	1	-	-	-	-
35-45 "	-	-	-	-	-	-
45-55 "	-	-	-	-	-	-
60 and up.	1	1	-	-	2	-
TOTALS.	4	2	-	-	2	-

In addition to these 6 new cases, 4 others - 3 males and 1 female - were notified as inward transfers from other areas.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS DURING 1955.

DISEASE.	Total Cases Notified.	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths.
Small Pox.	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever.	4	3	-
Diphtheria.	-	-	-
Typhoid Fever.	-	-	-
Paratyphoid.	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.	14 *	-	-
Pneumonia.	2	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis.	-	-	-
Measles.	70	-	-
Dysentery.	4 *	1	-
Whooping Cough.	3	-	-
Erysipelas.	1	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	-	-	-

* Occurred in hospital.

CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Measles. There was an epidemic of measles late Spring and early summer. 70 cases being notified. Nearly all those affected were children aged between one and nine years and most cases were of a mild to moderate severity.

Diphtheria and Acute Poliomyelitis. There were no cases of either of these diseases.

Immunisation and Vaccination. These were carried out at the County Council Infant Welfare Clinics and in the general practioners' Surgeries.

17 children received the primary course of injections against diphtheria and 3 were given booster doses.

18 people were vaccinated during the year, 16 being children under 15 years of age. In addition 6 people over 15 years of age were re-vaccinated.

These numbers are fewer that the previous year, mainly for two reasons:-
(1) During the summer months - the 'polio season' - these procedures were discontinued, and
(2) the Treberth Estate where there were many families with young children became part of Newport on the 31st March.

I am,
Your obedient Servant,

EVELYN D. OWEN.

Medical Officer of Health.